

[From the Times Argus, Dec. 30, 2000]

# VERMONT RADIO LEGEND RETIRES

(By Robin Palmer)

WATERBURY.—A radio personality whose reliability co-workers say was unmatched, ended a nearly 40-year career today with a final "Wake Up, Vermont" program on WDEV.

Michael Carey, 53, is retiring because of health reasons and, despite a last show dedicated to Carey and his many attributes, it was a sad day for him and for central Vermont radio.

"It's a retirement that's been forced upon me and not one that I'm looking forward to. I loved the profession and that's what makes it doubly hard," said Carey, who shirked at the attention surrounding him, calling his "just a profession."

Carey's profession began at an early age, and one he said he never expected to have.

At age 13, from his parents' apartment on Elm Street in Waterbury, Carey had an illegal radio station. He played records and read the weather, until a WDEV employee, Norman James, heard Carey's pirate station and thought he'd put the illegal endeavor to some good use, Carey said.

James got Carey a job answering phones for a WDEV Saturday night request program called "The Green Mountain Ballroom."

"Norm James got my foot in the door," said Carey, whose name was already familiar to those at the Waterbury radio station.

Carey's late parents, guitarist Morton "Smokey" Carey and singer Lois Carey, used to perform each morning on WDEV, said radio station owner Ken Squier.

Carey himself was later well known as the drummer in the popular "Carey Brothers Band" that entertained throughout the area in the 1970s.

In 1965, the radio pirate turned student worker was hired as a full-time announcer at WDEV by legendary Vermont radio personality and former "Wake Up, Vermont" host Rusty Parker, who died on the air in 1982 while reading the news.

Since his start in the 60s, Carey said, "I've done every shift here at the radio station except a Sunday night shift."

During that time, "there have been memories both very good and very bad ones," Carey said, listing Parker's death and the death of "Cousin" Harold Grout as two of the worst.

Two years after Parker's death, in 1984, Carey was promoted to sign-on the station and host the morning program, including "Once Around the Clock" from 5 to 6 a.m. and "The Morning News Service" from 7 to 8 a.m.

When Grout died, Carey became the voice of the long-running "Trading Post" program. And in April 1994, Carey was teamed with radio group Vice President and General Manager Eric Michaels for a 6 to 9 a.m. morning news program that quickly became known as "Wake Up, Vermont with Michael and Michaels."

"From the first day we were in the studio together we felt like we had worked with each other for a long time," said Michaels. "He can read me like a book."

"So I'm devastated (that Carey's retiring), if you want to put it in a single word. It's like getting a divorce," Michaels said.

Michaels praised Carey as one of the most competent broadcasters he's ever met. Carey can technically run a show while not missing a beat as an announcer.

"He's an absolutely wonderful news reader," said Michaels of his co-host.

Carey was rarely flustered.

"Doesn't matter if it was a snowstorm and floods, he could always rise to the occasion. Squier said, "That is his strength."

Bad weather and flooding once closed the Waterbury station and after a 20-minute delay, Michael and Michaels went on-air at a nearby studio that was so cold their lips stuck to the microphones. Carey was unfazed, said Michaels.

And one stormy day, it took Michaels over two hours to drive from Barre to Waterbury.

"I called the whole program in by phone," said Michaels, who all the while was guided by reliable Carey, sitting comfortably at the station and casually chatting with Michaels over the phone.

With Carey's retirement, Michaels will continue on with "Wake Up, Vermont." The "Michael and Michaels" portion of the name will be dropped, and another WDEV radio announcer will fill in for Carey while the radio station searches for a replacement.

"It's been the most reluctant job search that I've ever had to do," Michaels said.

While the job search will stretch beyond Vermont's borders, Squier said he is committed to keeping the morning broadcast a "Vermont sound."

And Carey is invited back anytime he feels up to it, Squier said. "We were terribly sorry to lose him," said Squier.

"I think all of central Vermont will miss him," Squier said. "He was a steady hand for listeners in the morning."

Carey said he may come back at some point and do part-time work but, for now, that's not possible.

The Duxbury resident and father of three who for decades has awoken at 3 a.m., said he will be "trying to get back to a normal life."

"Just some R and R, rest and relaxation, getting on the computer and trying to do some things. Just keeping active and doing stuff," said Carey of his plans. ●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. LOTT):

S. Res. 8. A resolution relative to Senate procedure in the 107th Congress; considered and agreed to.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 8—RELATIVE TO SENATE PROCEDURE IN THE 107TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following resolu-

tion; which was considered and agreed to:

### S. RES. 8

*Resolved*, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXV, or any other provision of the Standing Rules or Standing Orders of the Senate, the committees of the Senate, including Joint and Special Committees, for the 107th Congress shall be composed equally of members of both parties, to be appointed at a later time by the two Leaders; that the budgets and office space for such committees, and all other subgroups, shall likewise be equal, with up to an additional 10% to be allocated for administrative expenses to be determined by the Rules Committee, with the total administrative expenses allocation for all committees not to exceed historic levels; and that the Chairman of a full committee may discharge a subcommittee of any legislative or Executive Calendar item which has not been reported because of a tie vote and place it on the full committee's agenda.

SEC. 2. *Provided*, That such committee ratios shall remain in effect for the remainder of the 107th Congress, except that if at any time during the 107th Congress either party attains a majority of the whole number of Senators, then each committee ratio shall be adjusted to reflect the ratio of the parties in the Senate, and the provisions of this resolution shall have no further effect, except that the members appointed by the two Leaders, pursuant to this resolution, shall no longer be members of the committees, and the committee chairmanships shall be held by the party which has attained a majority of the whole number of Senators.

SEC. 3. Pursuant to the provisions and exceptions listed above, the following additional Standing Orders shall be in effect for the 107th Congress:

(1) If a committee has not reported out a legislative item or nomination because of a tie vote, then, after notice of such tie vote has been transmitted to the Senate by that committee and printed in the Record, the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader may, only after consultation with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the committee, make a motion to discharge such legislative item or nomination, and time for debate on such motion shall be limited to 4 hours, to be equally divided between the two Leaders, with no other motions, points of order, or amendments in order: *Provided*, That following the use or yielding back of time, a vote occur on the motion to discharge, without any intervening action, motion, or debate, and if agreed to it be placed immediately on the Calendar of Business (in the case of legislation) or the Executive Calendar (in the case of a nomination).

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, to insure that any cloture motion shall be offered for the purpose of bringing to a close debate, in no case shall it be in order for any cloture motion to be made on an amendable item during its first 12 hours of Senate debate: *Provided*, That all other provisions of Rule XXII remain in status quo.

(3) Both Leaders shall seek to attain an equal balance of the interest of the two parties when scheduling and debating legislative and executive business generally, and in keeping with the present Senate precedents, a motion to proceed to any Legislative or Executive Calendar item shall continue to be considered the prerogative of the Majority Leader, although the Senate Rules do not prohibit the right of the Democratic Leader, or any other Senator, to move to proceed to any item.